(ग) क्या सरकार ने पाकिसतान द्वारा की गई ऐसी कार्यवाहियों के खिलाफ अपना विरोध दर्ज कराया है, यदि हां, तो पाकिस्तान द्वारा उसका क्या उत्तर दिया गया है?

रक्षा मंत्री (श्री मुलायम सिंह यादव): (क) 1997 के दौरान पाकिस्तान सैनिकों द्वारा भारतीय सीमा पार करके गोलीबारी करने की कोई घटना नहीं हुई।

(ख) और (ग) ऊपर (क) के उत्तर को देखते हुए प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

Purchase of Aircraft Carrier

41. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are negotiating with some countries for purchase of an aircraft carrier;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the aircraft carrier is likely to be inducted into the Navy?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There is a proposal for purchase of an aircraft carrier as a replacement for INS Vikrant which was decommissioned on 31st January, 1997.

(c) A decision in this regard would depend upon the merit of the proposal availability of funds.

Morality of Defence Personnel

42. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of defence personnel who have lost their lives infighting against insurgency in Jammu & Kashmir and North Eastern regions of the country; and

(b) the steps taken to prevent the high rate of incidence of mortality of defence personnel?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV): (a) The number of Army personnel who lost their lives in fighting against insurgency in Jammu and Kashmir and the North Eastern region of the country during the period 1988-1997 (upto 6.11.1997) is 1745 and 352 respectively.

(b) Various steps, such as intensive training to the troops in counter insurgency operations prior to induction, making incoming and outgoing troops to operate together for one month to ensure adequate on the job training, provision of appropriate equipment/weapons to the troops close monitoring of the activities of militants and formulation of adequate response thereto, are being taken.

Defence jobs

43. SHRI SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that now a days Indian Youth is avoiding joining Defence jobs, specially the job of captains;

(b) if so, what action has been taken to solve this crisis;

(c) whether his Ministry has conducted any survey to know the mood of Indian Youth regarding the defence jobs; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV): (a) to (d) Judging by the number of applicants for vacancies at the induction level, it cannot be said that a career in the Armed Forces is becoming less attractive. On an average about 1.7 lakhs candidates appear in the UPSC examination and the UPSC recommends about 13-14 thousand candidates every year. However, many candidates are rejected at the Services Selection Boards (SSBs) level.

A general slide in employment preference of the youth in favour of softer jobs appears to be the main reason for the shortage of officers in the Army.

Army Headquarters are constantly reviewing this problem and have